

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Kazuya SATO et al. )  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: February 15, 2001 ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD FOR INSPECTING EXPOSURE APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

Applicants would also like to point out to the Examiner the following pending application:

(1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/345,758, may be related to the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

31040 U.S. PTO  
09/783295  
02/15/01

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language document:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-21732, discloses a method of examining an exposure tool. The light emitted from the light source is projected on a reticle including a grating pattern, the diffracted light of the first order or higher passed through the reticle illuminates the outer edge of the pupil of the projection optical system and the pattern image on the reticle is projected on a wafer in the defocus state.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the listed non-English language document, an English-language abstract of the document setting forth the relevance is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

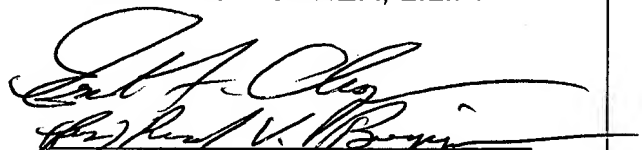
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

  
Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 25,961

Dated: February 15, 2001  
Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/sci


ERNEST F. CHAPMAN  
Reg. No. 25,961

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,  
FARABOW, GARRETT,  
& DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202-408-4000

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No. 04329.2509	Serial No. Not Yet Assigned
Applicants Kazuya SATO et al.	
Filing Date February 15, 2001	Group Not Yet Assigned

J1040 U.S. PTO  
 09/783295  


U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		2000-21732	01/21/00	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	SATO, K. et al., "Method of Examining an Exposure Tool", Serial No. 09/345,758, filed on July 1, 1999.

Examiner	Date Considered
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\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO 1449
Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce